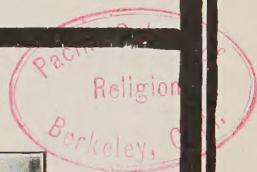


BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD



BULGARIAN PRIEST AND WOMEN IN NATIVE COSTUME
SEE PAGE 38

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The Only Book Never Off the Press

FOUR hundred and sixty-seven years ago the first book was printed from movable type. That book was the Bible, and it took five years to complete the task. One of these books has sold for \$50,000. Today great presses printing for the American Bible Society are turning off copies of the Gospels at the rate of 10,000 an hour, to be sold anywhere in the whole world for one cent each. In the intervening years the Bible has never been off the press. It has had a steady run for more than four centuries. Yet, if all the Bibles printed in all the years since printing was invented were available today, there would not be enough to supply the world's present population. The present rate of production of Bibles is not so great as the birth rate. Large portions of the population of the world are still unable to get the whole Bible or even a main part in their native tongues.

It must be said to the credit of the church that a vast work has been done in giving the Bible to the world. In whole or in part the Bible has been translated into 770 languages or dialects. During the past decade the Bible has appeared in a new language on an average of every six weeks. In the past century some 550,000,000 copies of the Scriptures have been prepared by the Bible Societies. Millions of dollars have been given by the church for this great task. Thousands of consecrated men have given themselves in sacrificial service.

But still the fact remains that the Book is undelivered. When the Bible Societies are asked for an explanation, their answer is immediate, direct, and simple: "It could be delivered in hundreds of languages to millions of people if paid for." It is merely a matter of dollars and cents. The scholarship of the church is equal to the gigantic task of translation, if it can only be made available. The mills are equipped to furnish the paper, and the

presses, to print the sacred words, if only funds are at hand to meet the expenses. The man power and woman power of the church are adequate for the task of distribution. In the most literal sense all that is wanting is money to finance the venture.

No phase of the church's task is so basic as that of giving the Bible to all men everywhere. It is probable that no other phase of the church's work produces so large a return for the same amount of money and service. And yet the church has never given as generously to this part of its work as it has to other branches of its missionary program. The percentage devoted to Bible work in the benevolent program of the church as a whole is not something of which the church may boast. If a great wave of generosity were to sweep the church in behalf of the Bible cause, it would bring a revival of spiritual life to her membership. This thing is fundamental to the church's success as a spiritual force in the world.

Nor have the stewards of great wealth seemed to realize the unlimited opportunity for far-reaching service presented by the Bible program. The really conspicuous gifts made during the first hundred years of this work could be counted in the proverbial way on the fingers of one hand. No one has come forward to create a foundation for Bible circulation as has been done in behalf of other worthy enterprises such as public health, education, music, literature, and art. After a century of operation, the total endowment of the American Bible Society, which is second in importance to no other American institution, is less than two millions of dollars, yielding an income of less than \$100,000. May God stir the hearts of those whom he has richly endowed with material things, to see this work as an opportunity fraught with vast possibility for human betterment and spiritual advancement.

Notes and Comments

THE picture on the cover has come to us through our Agency Secretary at Constantinople. He reports that last summer an English Y. W. C. A. worker organized a summer camp for girls in the mountains some thirty-five kilometers from Sofia. Office girls, school teachers, students, and other young women of limited means, were given opportunity to spend a couple of weeks at the camp at a moderate charge of 20 cents per day for board and lodging. An old monastery was secured for the purpose. One of the features of the camp was a course of gospel readings, for which the Levant Agency supplied the Scriptures. Many of the girls never before owned or read any part of the Holy Scriptures. The priest of the monastery himself, who stands in the center of the picture between two members of the camp, was much interested and gave every facility for the carrying on of this work. Out of it has grown a Y. W. C. A. Association in Sofia. The picture on page 39 shows some of those at the camp, and who helped to form the association.

THE quotation from President Harding on the next page may be recognized as from his letter of January 10, 1923, to a committee representing the Union of American-Hebrew Congregations, regretting his inability to attend their golden jubilee dinner. We rejoice in a President who so unhesitatingly and unequivocally expresses his belief in the "need for a restoration of the soul of religious devotion."

NOR all of us are up-to-date. But it was a surprise recently to receive a letter addressed to "R. Yoho Ferreira de Almeida," the translator of the Portuguese Bible, who died in 1691.

ALL our readers are surely lovers of the Bible. But how many of them would pay \$58 for one. And yet in a letter rejoicing that he could get a Bible for such a sum, came an order from a blind man, for the 58 volumes of the Bible in the Moon system. As recently announced, the cost price of this Bible is over \$270. This purchaser had just learned of the Society's action authorizing the special price of \$1 a volume, and hastened to obtain what he had long waited for.

SOMETHING out of the ordinary characterized a recent application for embossed Scriptures. It was a letter from an American lady married to a Bulgarian, who wrote from Sofia, on behalf of a blind friend, widow of a Russian officer, to Miss Helen Keller, asking for some embossed Scriptures. She had seen the picture of Miss Keller with the Bible in the *Ladies' Home Journal*. The application has come to us from Miss Keller, and, of course, received prompt attention.

AN interesting handbill has reached us from the Jewish Publication Society of America. It contains a reproduction of a clipping from a New York paper, with the caption "Out to Christianize 1,500,000 Jews," and followed by the statement, "One answer would be a Jewish Bible in every Jewish home. Get a copy of the new Jewish translation of the Bible for your own home and tell other Jews to do likewise." We will rejoice if this leads to a wider reading of the Old Testament.

A FEW days ago, a man came into the sales-room and purchased an Old Testament in English. An inquiry revealed the fact that he was a representative of a Hebrew brotherhood here in the city. They were importing from Germany two cases of "The Law," being copies of the Pentateuch in English and Yiddish in parallel columns. The customhouse inspectors refused to admit them free of duty, declaring that "The Law" could not come in under the privileges accorded to free entry of Scriptures. He said that out of the five inspectors to whom he had appealed in the New York customhouse none was familiar enough with the first five books of the Bible to identify them as really parts of the Bible. They finally agreed that, if he would secure a copy of the Bible with the American Bible Society imprint with which they could compare the books, they would then be convinced, and he would be freed from the necessity of paying duty. Hence his purchase.

ONE of the oddities of life has occurred during the past month, when notices of legacies to the work of the Society have been received from three men bearing the names—Bacon, Ham, and Chesebrough.

HERE is a letter that shows how annuitants are helped by, and help, the American Bible Society. It thus illustrates the accomplishment of the twofold purpose of the Society's annuity bonds. Many annuitants make annual gifts of, or from, their annuities. One has generously returned her semi-annual annuity check of \$2,000 for several years:

Knoxville, Tenn.

Your letter containing your check for \$77 duly came on the 18th of this month, for which I thank you most cordially. I have never regretted my putting my money in the Bible Society where it can help the Lord's work. I am also pleased to get the interest, for I need it now. Please excuse my delay in acknowledging sooner your letter. I suffer so much from my eyes. I really could not do my duty in many things. I want to send a small check for \$5.00 today for the work of the American Bible Society.

FROM Bishop H. A. Boaz, of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, having charge of its missionary work in Japan, Korea, Siberia, and Manchuria, recently has come a cordial letter of thanks for Russian Scriptures sent to him for use in Siberia by way of Vladivostok.

WORD comes to us that Miss E. Konitzky, of Baltimore, Md., a warm friend of the Bible and the American Bible Society, who publishes annual leaflets of daily readings of the Bible and of the New Testament, has started on a trip around the world. She is planning to visit the headquarters of our Foreign Agencies in this world journey, and we may have results of her impressions and investigations, to share with our readers.

THE *Times* of London, in a leading article headed "All Mankind's Concern," strongly endorsed our great sister, the British and Foreign Bible Society. What is said of her applies in some measure to other Bible societies, as will be seen by the following extracts:

The whole of the civilized world, and the British peoples especially, with their vast responsibilities in Africa and Asia, owe an enormous debt to the

Society for the linguistic intercourse with backward races, which it has thus made possible for them, to say nothing of the spiritual enlightenment which it has brought to many of the darkest regions of the earth.

It is truly an international organization, and its ideals are as practical as any that have yet been devised by international statesmanship for the improvement of the relations between people and people and man and man. There can be little true human fellowship if large portions of mankind either never learn, or are allowed to forget, the principal lessons of history and the central religious truths which the pages of the Bible enshrine. However interpreted, the New Testament, if the brotherhood of man is not to remain a merely pious aspiration, must become a book accessible to all.

THE honored superintendent and treasurer of the New Hampshire Bible Society, who has

retired after thirty years of valuable service, the Rev. E. J. Aiken, has started on another of his extensive journeys. The *Concord Evening Monitor* of January 13th announced that he would visit some of the West Indies again and make a more extended trip through parts of British Guiana.

The same paper publishes the following report of the action of the board of directors of the New Hampshire Bible Society concerning Mr. Aiken:

The directors have listened, with profound interest to the closing report of the Rev. E. J. Aiken, for thirty years the superintendent of the society.

It has been said that institutions are the lengthened shadows of individuals and, not forgetting the far-seeing and sacrificial work of the founders of this society and those who have made possible its long and honorable history, the directors are nevertheless convinced that "the present prosperous state of the society and its place in the affections of the people of the Old Granite State are due largely to the life, labor, and spirit of this genial, helpful, unselfish man, who seemed to have absorbed into his own spirit, disposition and character, something of the spirit of the Holy Books that have been piled around him for a generation."

The directors further express gratitude "that he is still to be intimately associated with the work of

I had hoped to take part in this commemoration, because it seemed to afford occasion for saying some things which have been much in my thoughts of late. One of the marvels of humanity's story has been the strength and persistence of the Jewish faith and the continuing influence and power of the Jewish people. I cannot but feel that these things are in large measure owing to the Hebrew conception of a personal God and of the individual accountability of men and women. There is evident almost everywhere in the world the need for restoration of the soul of religious devotion; for individual consecration to that ideal of religion which recognizes it as able to give something that neither patriotism nor civic virtue can ever afford. The human race, or certainly great and potential sections of it, has been getting away from its religious moorings. It needs a revival of the sincere conception of personal relationship of God to man and of man to God; a restoration of faith in the fundamentals that are eternal.

WARREN G. HARDING.

the Society, although in a different capacity, and pray that the Indian summer of his life may linger until its eternal springtime."

The directors also pledged to Mr. Edward

A. Dame, who has been associated with Mr. Aiken in the depository for eight years and who is now to serve as acting superintendent, their hearty co-operation.

• • •

Bible Workers in Bulgaria

By Rev. Arthur C. Ryan, Secretary, Levant Agency

THE upset conditions of the Balkans the past decade may have begotten misgivings about the value and reality of Bible work in that region. With the thought that a knowledge of the kind of men who have been at this work may beget confidence and encouragement instead, I send brief sketches of our workers in Bulgaria.

Rev. M. N. Popoff

The Rev. M. N. Popoff is a native of Bansko, Macedonia. By birth and race he is a Bulgarian. His education has been American. He took his early education in the American Board Mission schools in Samakov, Bulgaria. Later he went to the United States, where he completed courses in three institutions, viz., Fredonia State Normal School at Fredonia, N. Y.; Hamilton College at Clinton, N. Y.; and Auburn Theological Seminary at Auburn, N. Y.

After completing his studies in the United States, Mr. Popoff returned to his native land to take up the work of the Christian ministry. For nineteen years he acted as pastor of the large and very influential First Congregational Church of Sofia.

During recent years Mr. Popoff has acted as the representative of all the Protestant Christians of Bulgaria, before the central government. In this capacity he rendered a valuable service to his people. The Protestants of Bulgaria have a united society, which embraces most of the membership of the evangelical churches, and many liberal-minded people of the old church. This organization is known as the Bulgarian Evangelical Society. It has been an important factor in the liberal movement in Bulgaria. For many years Mr. Popoff was president of this society.

Mr. Popoff has been intensely interested in the temperance movement, and has taken a leading part in this work in Bulgaria. He has served as president of the Bulgarian Temperance Society, and gives much time to the effort to decrease the evils of intemperance.

As pastor of the Sofia First Congregational Church and as president of the Bulgarian Evangelical Society, Mr. Popoff for many years took a special interest in the circulation

of the Scriptures in Bulgaria. In 1914, when the Agent of the Levant Agency decided to secure a Bulgarian to act as sub-Agent to take charge of the Bible Society's work in Bulgaria, it was most natural that he should try to secure Mr. Popoff for this place.

For the past eight years this efficient sub-Agent has labored faithfully. Although war has interfered greatly with the work of circulating the Scriptures, the Sofia depository has distributed the following copies: Bibles 23,718; Testaments, 34,976; portions, 146,789; or a total of 205,483 copies. War conditions and disturbances have made it impossible to keep the stock fully supplied, and this interfered seriously with the work. Moreover, the economic condition of the country during and since the war has been such that it has not been possible to employ many colporteurs. All but one of the salaried colporteurs who were at work in 1914 have either died or gone into other lines of work. At present Mr. Popoff is hard at work trying to find new ways and means to circulate the Scriptures in Bulgaria.

Peter Mileff

Peter Mileff is one of the American Bible Society's aged but faithful colporteurs in Bulgaria. He is over seventy years of age. According to his story he was born in two cities: in Ohrid, Macedonia, born of the flesh; in Sofia, Bulgaria, born of the Spirit.

In 1880 Mr. Mileff, while acting as a teacher in Macedonia, was driven from his home by the Turks, who accused him of being a dangerous man. After locating in Bulgaria he entered the service of the state, which he served until 1912. For the past ten years Mr. Mileff has devoted himself to the work of selling Bibles. He receives no salary except a special commission on his sales.

Mr. Mileff speaks several languages and is specially well equipped to work among the different races which are found in the Bulgarian capital. His eagerness to sell the Scriptures has won for him both great praise and great censure. Eight times he has been arrested by communist officials for selling Bibles about the railway station. Through all his ex-

periences he passes with a calm confidence in his Lord. His vow is expressed in these words: "Until I close my eyes in death I shall continue to serve God by selling these sixty-six documents, bound in one book called the Bible."

Yanko Doycheff

For thirty-four years Yanko Doycheff has served as colporteur for the American Bible Society in Philippopolis, Bulgaria. He is now sixty-five years of age, but still full of enthusiasm for his work. Many are the interesting experiences which he loves to tell about his travels and sales.

On one of his recent tours he entered a coffee-shop in a Bulgarian town. He found it

wine?" To this the priest replied that he was not against the Bible, but only against Protestant books. "Well, then," said Yanko, "you come with me to the coffee-shop and say there that the Bible cannot be either Protestant or orthodox, but that it is Christian, and persuade the men to buy it, and then I shall go away." To this proposition the priest agreed.

At the coffee-shop the priest said, "The Bibles which this man sells are the same as ours; you may buy them, but not Protestant books." Yanko reports the result of this statement as follows: "All abandoned the games and surrounded me to buy Bibles and Testaments."

When Yanko started to leave the place, the



MEMBERS OF THE SUMMER CAMP IN BULGARIA MENTIONED IN THE NOTE ON PAGE 35

crowded with men, who were drinking and gambling. The men paid little attention to him, until the village priest entered and snatched old Yanko's bag and carried it to the mayor's office, where the priest accused Yanko of selling Protestant Bibles.

After trying to convince the priest that the Bible was neither orthodox nor Protestant, but Christian, old Yanko addressed the priest as follows: "Father priest, do you believe that you will die?" Receiving no reply, Yanko said, "Yes, I shall die, and you will die too. When we shall stand before God, and he shall ask you why you did drive out that Bible colporteur, what will you answer? Will you say that you drove him away because he sold Protestant Bibles and was not selling cards and

priest accompanied him. On the way the priest confessed to Yanko that he realized that his work was good, and that the people should read the Bible; but that he did not dare to say so to his people "for fear they would accuse him of being a Protestant." However, old Yanko sold all his Scriptures and would have sold more, had he been better supplied.

Spas Stephanoff

Supporting a family of twelve persons from commissions on the sales of Bulgarian Bibles is an accomplishment worthy of consideration. This is what Mr. Spas Stephanoff, of Sofia, is doing. Moreover, the family is well provided for and is being educated. One son is a student in the university in Sofia, while two others

are graduates from the gymnasium. Six other children are in school. The youngest child is under school age.

Mr. Stephanoff is a Baptist. He is deeply religious and devoted to his work. He refuses to accept a stated salary, but receives traveling expenses and a special commission on all Scrip-

tures and books which he sells. Undoubtedly, he sells more Scriptures than any other man in Bulgaria. His specialty is to sell to travelers and people about the railway stations. He keeps no records of the number of Scriptures which he sells. His great ambition is to circulate the Word of God.

. . .

Scriptures Rather Than Flowers

A SWEET and unusual story lies back of the accompanying pictures. "When I die do not let my friends spend much money for flowers. I would much rather they would

send Bibles instead. Then give them to those who have none." Such was the message of Mrs. Catharine Higgins to her daughter Katharine, shortly before she died. Although she loved flowers, she realized the greater importance of God's Word and wanted others to know it.

Born in England in a home where the Word of God was

California, says that her mother all through her life continued to read the Bible.

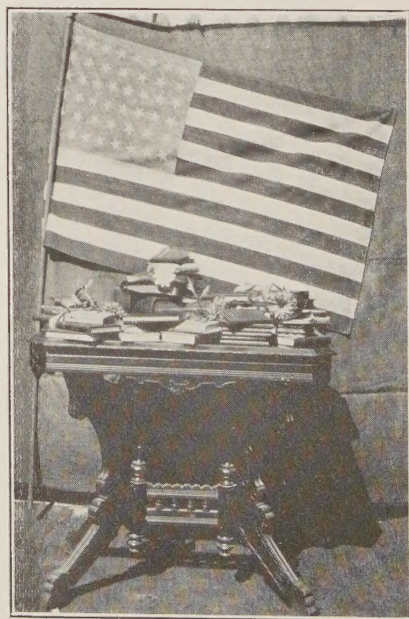
During her long illness, when she suffered much, and when she could no longer read, "Mother Higgins" would repeat from memory passage after passage, to the amazement of friends who visited her. When a friend asked her how she spent the night, she would say, "I do not sleep much, but I do not get lonesome. I repeat God's Word, and talk to him." When asked how she remembered, she replied, "I learned it when I was a little girl."

Her friends knowing her desire about Bibles rather than flowers, while not forgetting to send flowers, which were afterward taken to the sick in hospitals, also sent volumes of Scripture as shown in the accompanying picture, and a "Mother Higgins Memorial Fund" was started by gifts, which totaled \$56, placed



"MOTHER"
HIGGINS AND
HER DAUGHTER
KATHARINE

prized and used, Mrs. Higgins grew up with a great love for it. Though left a widow at an early age, with five small children, she continued to make the time to give the Bible an important place in a home. Following the custom of her old home, she would gather the children around her and read and talk of God's Word. Never too tired even after working for six days and into the nights, she would accompany her children to Sunday school and church on the Sabbath and encourage them to study God's Word. Her daughter Katharine, who is engaged in missionary work among the Latin-American people of southern



SCRIPTURES FOR FLOWERS

in a little rose-covered basket at the same time. This fund is growing. The first dozen Bibles from it were taken into Mexico by a Mexican, who had heard the gospel for the first time at the community center in Los Angeles, Cal., in which her daughter works. Other Scriptures

have been given to young people establishing their homes; others to men and women in jails and penitentiaries; still others to boys and girls.

Who can estimate the far-reaching influence thus radiating from the life and desire of one of God's faithful servants?

• • •

Three Million

MUCH publicity has been given to a recent printing order by the American Bible Society. It was for an edition of 1,500,000 copies of Scripture portions—Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, the Acts, and the book of Proverbs. Other details will interest our friends.

Prior to this order, the Bible Society printed a trial edition of 250,000 of the Gospel of John, to be sold at 1c. a copy. This edition was exhausted in six or eight weeks. The order for the edition of 1,500,000 mentioned above was then placed—1,000,000 of them for Scriptures in English and 500,000 in Spanish. Calls for 800,000 of them have been received already. Consequently, a further order for another mil-

lion and a half has been placed, one million of them the Gospel of John, and five hundred thousand the Gospel of Luke.

Of the English portions in this total of 3,250,000 volumes, 1,650,000 are the Gospel of John, 700,000 the Gospel of Luke; 100,000 each the Gospels of Matthew and Mark, and the books of Acts and Proverbs. The 500,000 in Spanish are composed of 100,000 in each of the four Gospels, and 100,000 of the book of Proverbs. As announced elsewhere these volumes are to be sold at 1c. a copy.

It is encouraging to know both that there is a call for publishing these little volumes in such great numbers, and also that they will be available in such quantities at this very moderate price.

• • •

Bible Sunday in 1922

IAM interested in Bible Sunday which is set for November 26th. Please send me free literature for the preparation of radio sermon to 60,000 people." This telegram received by the American Bible Society from a California pastor is typical of hundreds of requests which came to the Society during the weeks preceding Bible Sunday, except that the radio was not usually employed.

Each year Universal Bible Sunday is more generally observed as a special day in the churches of the United States. The observance is not confined to this country, however. All over the world churches and Sunday schools are setting apart one day in the year for the consideration of that important phase of the missionary program—the preparation and distribution of the Scriptures.

The Bible Sunday plan has been fostered by the American Bible Society for many years, and careful attention is given to the arrangement of a program equally well adapted for use as a church or Sunday-school service, or by a young people's or missionary society.

As announced in the October RECORD, the theme for 1922 Bible Sunday was "The Bible—Undelivered to the Nations of the World." In addition to the dramatic program, a little leaflet with the same title was prepared for general distribution; and also a poster for use on bulletin boards, in church lobbies, etc.

Upon request, 44,608 copies of this program with accompanying leaflets and posters were sent from New York headquarters to 2,424 churches and individuals, representing 39 denominations. This does not include the 3,000 sent to the Los Angeles Federation of Churches for the 260 churches of that city, the 1,000 sent to the Cleveland sub-Agency for use in the city of Cleveland, or the material sent to Agency Secretaries to meet emergency requests in their several districts. Altogether over 80,000 programs, 500,000 leaflets, and 2,500 posters were mailed from the Bible House in Astor Place.

Many churches gave the entire day to the observance of Bible Sunday. In some in-

stances the program "Undelivered" took the place of the morning service, and the evening was devoted to a visualization of the work of the American Bible Society by means of the stereopticon. In other places the pastor preached a sermon on "The Bible" in the morning, and the dramatic program was given in the evening. In still other churches the special Bible Sunday program was in charge of the Sunday school or young people's society.

Enthusiastic reports have been received from many sources. An Iowa pastor writes:

We used your exercise "Undelivered," and I think the people have a new idea.

Another pastor from the same state says:

I took special pains both this and last year to observe Bible Sunday, and it was a great blessing to my church.

From Ohio comes this cheering message:

We are very thankful for the splendid material you sent us. We used all of it, and much interest was shown in the valuable work.

Secretary Mell, of the Pacific Agency, reports:

We believe that the day was observed by some hundreds of churches, some in the larger cities, but more especially in the smaller places. The inquiries concerning the day were much more general than any previous year.

In order to enable more persons to take part, a Philadelphia church divided the program as follows:

Our Christian Endeavor Society is intermediate. They, with the help of an elderly man, are to present the program in Sunday school and, if carried out well, the following evening in church. We are dividing the parts, using two girls for Bible Society, two boys for translators, one boy and one girl as publishers. The balance of the members are to finish up and we are hoping to have them costumed.

The secretary of the Gloucester County (N. J.) Sunday-school Association sent the following letter:

Again I will be very glad to co-operate with you in the matter of the observance of Universal Bible Sunday. I am enclosing a list of the names and addresses of the 97 Sunday-school superintendents of our county and will greatly appreciate it if you will mail to each of them one of the large posters, one program, and as many of the smaller folders as you may see fit. I believe it would help if you would send a letter like the one you sent to me. We would also appreciate it if you would state in the letter that you are sending these at the request of the Gloucester County Council of Religious Education.

Secretary Marston, of the Central Agency, writes of a request received by him:

I have just received a letter from a Columbus pastor, chairman of Presbytery's committee on the Bible Society, asking that I assist him in getting word to every pastor in his presbytery about Bible Sunday. I have advised that he send you a list of the pastors of his presbytery, giving the size of the church and asking that literature be sent them.

From Georgia comes the encouraging assurance:

If there is any book we desire to emphasize and distribute, it is the Bible. If the Protestant world would follow it more closely, your Bible work would be better supported.

At the Mexico Agency headquarters in Mexico City enough Bible Sunday material was printed in Spanish to supply the Mexico and Caribbean Agencies. Mr. H. F. Marroquin, Secretary Mellen's assistant, sends the following report on Bible Sunday observance in Mexico:

Bible Sunday offerings from the churches are coming in about the same as they did last year, notwithstanding the critical situation in which most of the people are. I have had the opportunity of being present and taking part in the Bible program of four churches and one girls' mission school here in the Federal District. All of these celebrations have been an inspiration and a clear demonstration of what the Word of God is accomplishing through His Spirit amongst my countrymen year by year. We Christian Mexicans feel greatly indebted to the American Bible Society.

In the Caribbean Agency the offerings received on Bible Sunday amounted to \$204.84 Mex., half of which has been sent to the New York office to be used in the general work of the Society.

The secretary of the Irish Church Missions, Dublin, Ireland, acknowledges receipt of Bible Sunday material as follows:

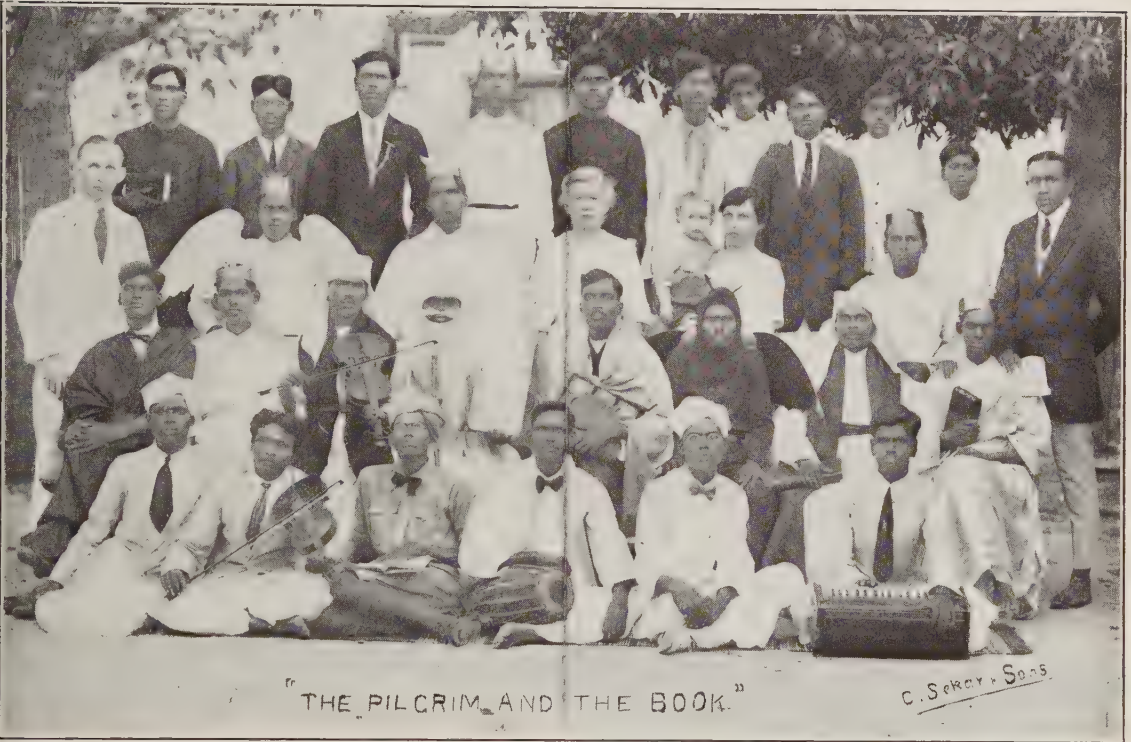
Many thanks for your kind gift of the poster, leaflets and exercises which arrived here in good condition. The poster is very striking, it was exhibited at the mission church here.

Requests for material are still coming in, many churches finding it more convenient to observe a day in the late winter or early spring.

Not a small part of the success of Bible Sunday was due to the co-operation of editors of both the secular and religious press. Through the courtesy of the press associations our announcement appeared in dailies and weeklies all over the country. Many of the religious papers not only gave this announcement a prominent place, but made editorial comment as well, and about fifty of them accepted our offer of the use of a cut of our miniature poster, "Undelivered." That this co-operation greatly increased the interest in Bible Sunday was evident from many letters received at the Bible House.

We rejoice in the success of Bible Sunday, not as an end in itself, but as an opportunity to magnify the Bible and to present to the church the needs and accomplishments of the American Bible Society in the great task with which it has been entrusted—to "encourage the circulation of the Scriptures without note or comment."

A Bible Sunday Drama in India



FROM Vellore, India, has come the above picture of the cast that presented Percy MacKay's "The Pilgrim and the Book." Adapted by translation into Tamil and the use of native lyrics, and presented by the students, aided by the faculty, of the Union Theological Seminary at Vellore, it has proved very popular with non-Christian audiences as well as Christian. Of one presentation, the Rev. James H. Potter, in charge, writes:

In the main street of one of the villages where we gave the play, a new Hindu temple was being erected. A large stone platform had been built and in the center of this was being constructed the shrine proper which would house the image. The people very generously offered us the use of this stone platform for the play. We gladly accepted the offer as it made an excellent stage and so there on the platform of the Hindu shrine our Christian play was presented while the people squatted in the village street and listened most interestedly.

• • •

Bible Exhibit of the New York Public Library

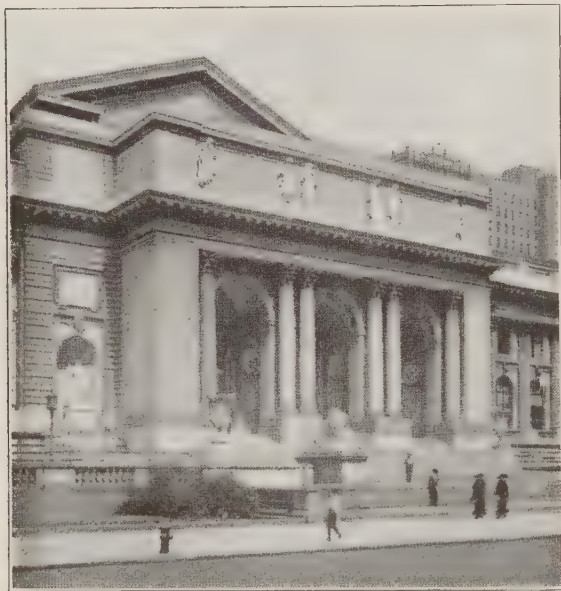
AN unusual exhibit of Bibles is attracting uncommon interest at the New York Public Library. The large exhibit room on the first floor has thirty or forty exhibit cases filled with rare and varied copies of the Holy Scriptures; while the walls are hung with some two hundred of the celebrated paintings of Old Testament scenes by Tissot. The interest in the exhibit which was opened in early Jan-

uary for two months, has been so constant and wide, it is announced that the time has been extended for at least another month.

The purpose of the Library authorities has been to illustrate the process of the preservation and the development of the printing of the Scriptures, and their translation and publication in many lands and languages. The Library claims to possess "in all respects the finest col-

lection of Bibles in the United States." The bulk of the rarest and the most valuable came to it through the Lenox Library. Mr. James Lenox, who built up that library, was for seven years President of the American Bible Society, and was deeply interested in the dissemination of the Bible, as well as in the gathering of its rarer copies.

Another important element in the exhibit is formed from the collection of rare and valuable Bibles belonging to the American Bible



(C) John Wallace Gillies

MAIN ENTRANCE, NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY

Society, most of which were placed for safe-keeping in the fireproof building of the Lenox Library and passed from it to the New York Public Library, Fifth Ave. and 42d St.

The visitor, on entering, finds in the first case to which he is pointed, a collection of "Old Versions." The first volume is a manuscript of the Gospels in Estrangelo Syriac, which was given in 1842 by a Syriac priest to Dr. Asabel Grant, a missionary to the Nestorians, and given by him to the American Bible Society. Among the other Old Versions in this case, one may see copies of the first Anglo-Saxon, Armenian, Coptic, Ethiopic, German, Gothic and Persian Scriptures in manuscript.

The next case contains "Polyglots." Perhaps the most valuable volume in the exhibit is the Complutensian Polyglot, 1514-1517, the earliest of all Polyglots. Another case contains Hebrew and Samaritan Scriptures in rolls, and "Greek Texts" occupy a case or two.

"Early Latin Manuscripts and Printed Scriptures" fill a dozen more cases. Some of these Latin Scriptures are beautifully illuminated. A copy of the first book ever printed, the Gutenberg Bible, 1453-5, one of the prizes of the collection, is in this group, as is the first Bible printed in France, in 1476.

"Versions in Languages of Asia and Africa" occupy another case, Morrison's Chinese translation, 1812-13, being one of them. A goodly number of these are naturally drawn from the collection of the American Bible Society.

Nearby are cases containing early "German Versions," many of which, like their neighbors the "French Versions," are extensively illuminated. The fact is noted that not only was German the first modern language in the world in which the Bible was printed, 1466; but it was also the first language in which the Bible was printed in America, (1743) copies of both being in the exhibit.

A case containing "First Bibles and Testaments in Other Languages" exhibits a copy of the Slavonian Bible, the first one published in Russia by the first printer in Russia; and also the first Swedish Bible, printed in 1541, a copy of which was provided for every church in the nation. "American printed English Bibles and Testaments" occupy another case, among them a copy of the first English New Testament, printed in Philadelphia by Aitken in 1777, and belonging to the American Bible Society. The first English Bible printed in America, that by Aitken in 1782, is also shown.

"Curious Bibles" is the caption over a case in which are exhibited the "Wicked Bible," so-called because the word "not" was omitted in the seventh commandment; the "Vinegar Bible," so-called because the word "vinegar" is used for "vineyard" in the caption over the twentieth chapter of Luke; the "Ear Bible," where the word "ear" is used for "hear" in Matthew 13:43; and the "Placemaker's Bible," where these words are used instead of "peacemakers" in Matthew 5:9. A number of copies of tiny Bibles and Testaments are exhibited, a New Testament less than three quarters of an inch square being the smallest.

Among the "English Versions" which occupy several cases are copies of the Wycliffe, Tindale, Coverdale, Matthews, Taverner, the Great Bible, Genevan, Bishops and Rheims or Douay versions—all the chief versions that preceded the King James.

"Yes, the old Book holds its own," said the Librarian in commenting on the wide scope and value of the exhibit, and the marked attention it is receiving.

The Bible and the Newspapers

THE *New York Times*, on its own initiative, prepared a special article on the work of the American Bible Society, which appeared on the front page of the feature section on Sunday, January 21st. It has attracted wide attention and has been a valuable means of extending information about the Society's work to a very large body of readers. It was a very fine and very gratifying interpretation of the Society's world program, and one which cannot fail to interest all who have the social, moral, and spiritual welfare of the world at heart.

The *Literary Digest* took occasion, in its issue of February 10th, to comment on this article and to quote several paragraphs from it. Two pictures furnished by the Society were also used. The editor of the Religious Department of the *Digest* who prepared this article quoted also from the Society's latest annual report. He presented the salient points of the Society's program in a lucid and interesting statement, that will reach several million readers.

These two publicity articles appearing in the first months of the year are significant of the general interest in the Bible program.

In 1922, eleven items of news furnished at different times by the Society were widely used in the daily press throughout the country. The announcement of the Society's achievement for the year, issued early in 1922, received the biggest circulation. Clippings have come to the Society from 205 daily papers in 42 states, Alaska and Canada, and this probably represents only a fraction of the papers in which the story was actually used.

The work of the Society has received editorial treatment in many papers in all parts of the country. The interest in the Bible program is profound.

We quote herewith an editorial in the *Chicago Post* under date of February 3d:

THE BEST OF ALL BEST SELLERS

It is estimated that the various agencies throughout the world engaged in circulating the Bible distributed no less than 30,000,000 copies last year. That is an amazing figure. It is a rare thing for a popular novel to run into an edition of 100,000 copies. A book that reaches 50,000 is a big success.

Complaint is made that the books cannot be turned out rapidly enough to supply the multiplying readers.

This is an interesting and significant phenomenon in an age so often condemned as materialistic; for, whatever else the Bible may be, it is not an appeal to the spirit of materialism—if anything so gross can be said to have a spirit.

The American Bible Society expects to issue 5,000,000 copies in 1923. It has already placed an order for 3,000,000, which will be turned out at the rate of 10,000 an hour.

In other lands, where the Book has been but little known, there is a like demand developing. This is notably true in China, which absorbed more than 2,300,000 Bibles in 1921 and, probably, 3,000,000 in 1922. One distributing agency reports that the available supply has fallen far short of the requests, and that a whole Chinese province had to be omitted from its distribution in spite of many earnest pleas for copies.

The Bible is printed today in 770 different languages and dialects; twenty-five dialect translations are needed for China alone. No other book ever claimed and received such devotion of scholarship in arduous labor as has been bestowed upon this compilation of ancient writings, and it is safe to say that no other book ever will.

Returning to the question of what significance may attach to these facts, it is surely reasonable to argue that this book must hold within itself some element of appeal which surpasses all other literature in its power over the human heart. That appeal is not wholly in its narrative; nor in its poetry, beautiful as much of it is; nor in its value as history and biography; nor in its sententious wisdom. It is not wholly in any one of these things. It lies in all of them combined—plus. And that plus stands for something which the greatest genius of the world expressed in narrative, poetry, history and philosophy has failed to compass outside the Bible.

We hold no mechanical theory of inspiration, but we submit that the only explanation of the unique phenomenon of a book which, after centuries of publication, retains its grip upon men's minds and souls, and multiplies its readers by the million with each passing year, is to be found in the fact that through its pages in some way God speaks to men as he speaks through no other medium, and men hear and recognize his voice and authority in its message as they do in no other.

The hunger of the mind for story and poetry, for history and philosophy can find food and satisfaction in a thousand different sources; but the hunger of the heart for God finds what it craves only in this book.

No other hunger can account for the distribution of 30,000,000 copies. And this is the most significant and the most hopeful thing we find in the astonishing record of its increasing popularity.

Men are hungry for the God whom the Bible reveals and who is known best through Jesus Christ, the central figure of the New Testament. They are

discovering that there is no meaning to the civilization they have builded, and no hope of its permanence, apart from God. They are discovering that all the fruitfulness of the human mind in the production of utility and beauty fails to satisfy the demands of its nature if God be omitted.

We understand the Bible better today. Modern scholarship has cleared away many of the difficulties which stood between us and the appreciation of its great spiritual message. In spite of the dismay of some lest the influence of the Bible might be injured through being subject to the tests of historical and textual criticism, it has survived triumphantly. To many the Bible has been restored as a book whose spiritual authority defies all challenge because, in the experience of living, it meets and satisfies their deepest needs.

BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD

EDITORS *The Secretaries*

NEW YORK, MARCH, 1923

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY

Bible House, Astor Place, New York

THE ninth stated meeting of the Board of Managers of the American Bible Society in its one hundred and seventh year was held at the Bible House, Astor Place, New York, on Thursday, January 4, 1923, at 3:30 o'clock p. m., President Churchill H. Cutting in the chair.

Devotional exercises were conducted by the Rev. Dr. John H. Raven, president of the Theological Seminary of the Reformed Church New Brunswick, N. J., and recently elected a member of the Committee on Versions. After reading the twenty-fifth Psalm, he offered prayer.

President Emeritus Wood, for the special committee, presented the following minute on the former member of the Board of Managers, John R. Taber, which was adopted by a rising vote:

John Russell Taber was born of an old Quaker family at New Bedford Mass., February 19, 1844. He was educated in schools at New Bedford, and came to New York about 1865. His elder brother Augustus, had come to New York earlier and became connected with the firm of Ferris & Underhill, founded about 1836, the first importers on a large scale of European marbles. This brother married the daughter of John R. Ferris and later became the head of the succeeding firm of Augustus Taber & Brother. John R. Taber became a member of this firm and its head when Augustus later became a resident of California in 1890. The use of colored European marbles and the famous white marbles of Carrara, Italy, increased greatly in this country, and the importations of Taber & Company became very large, so that John R. Taber became known as "The Marble King." The firm dealt in domestic marbles also.

Augustus Taber was for a long period an influential member of the Board of Managers of the American Bible Society, and at an early period went to Japan on a special mission for the Society.

John R. Taber was an active member of the Friends' Meeting at 20th Street and Gramercy Park in this city, and was very efficient in that body's missionary and philanthropic work. The Twenty-first Ward Mission on the East Side received his careful attention. The manual training department of this mission became of such importance that it was taken over by the public school system of the city and became the city's first evening manual training school.

At the close of the Civil War, the New York Yearly Meeting of Friends established at High Point, N. C., an institution for the education and mechanical training of the freed negroes. This institution has done a very important work, and for many years John R. Taber has been the chairman of its trustees and took a great interest in its management and in its financial support. Mr. Taber was a trustee of the Yearly Meeting and was very efficient in the management of its funds.

Mr. Taber was elected a Manager of the American Bible Society in May, 1905. He has been a faithful attendant of the meetings of the Board and an efficient member of the Committees on Publication and Home Agencies.

Mr. Taber married Anna Collins in 1871. She, with two daughters, survive him. He died on November 1, 1922, a few hours after being struck by an automobile while crossing the street near his home on Lexington Avenue.

The minutes of the eighth stated meeting of the Board and of its several standing committees were presented and approved.

On recommendation of the Finance Committee the thanks of the Society were extended to Mr. Paul R. Towne and Mr. James T. Van Steenbergh, of Harris & Towne, for their skillful, prolonged and eventually successful labors in connection with the disputed will of the late Miss Emma Bogardus, to the substantial benefit of the Society.

Treasurer Darlington called attention to the placing of an order for 1,500,000 one-cent Gospels, estimating that it was the largest single order for separate Scriptures in the history of Scripture printing.

Authority was given to hold the Home Agency Secretaries' Conference on or about the first of March.

The following consignments to the Society's Foreign Agencies during December, 1922, were reported: Brazil, 419 volumes, valued at \$345.63; Caribbean, 5,970 volumes, valued at \$1,362.99; China, 1,360 volumes, valued at \$473.46; La Plata, 13,935 volumes, valued at \$1,845.77; Mexico, 874 volumes, valued at \$459.62; total, 22,558 volumes, valued at \$4,487.47.

The issues from the Bible House during December, 1922, were 130,606 volumes.

The meeting was adjourned.

LEGACIES

RECAPITULATION

GIFTS SUBJECT TO LIFE INTEREST

HOME AGENCIES

AUXILIARY SOCIETIES

FOREIGN AGENCIES

RETURNS FROM SCRIPTURES DONATED

JOURNAL ENTRIES

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RECEIPTS

DISBURSEMENTS

\$157,922 49

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WITH FAMILY RECORD

(Specimen of type, BREVIER BIBLE, 12mo)

Christ's death, burial, ST. MATTHEW, 28. *and resurrection.*

50 ¶ Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost.

51 And, behold, the vail of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent;

52 And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose,

53 And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.

54 Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God.

chre sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch.

CHAPTER 28.

1 *Christ's resurrection is declared by an angel to the women. 9 He himself appeareth unto them. 11 The high priests give the soldiers money to say that he was stolen out of his sepulchre. 16 Christ appeareth to his disciples, 19 and sendeth them to baptize and teach all nations.*

IN the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre.

2 And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it.

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AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY

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